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New and little known ptyctimous mites (Acari, Oribatida) from India

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Abstract

In 2012, we registered a total of 22 species, 12 genera and five families of ptyctimous mites in India. Three new species, *Apoplophora paraspinosa* Niedbala **sp. nov.**, *Oribotritia duotrisetosa* Niedbala **sp. nov.** and *Plonaphacarus kaluzi* Niedbala **sp. nov.**, are described. Some remarks on descriptions of Indian *Sumatrotritia inusitata* Mahunka, 1989, *Euphthiracarus meghalayensis* Sanyal, 1988, *Phthiracarus obscurus* Niedbala, 1986 and *Hoplophthiracarus concinuus* (Niedbala, 1982) are presented. *Hoplophthiracarus tropicus* Mondal & Kundu, 1988 is recognized as a junior synonym of the species *Hoplophthiracarus concinuus*.

Key words: Oribatida, ptyctimous mites, checklist, new species, new synonym, India

Introduction

The present study is based on total ptyctimous mite material collected by L. Dembický and O. Šauša in 2012 from India. These recorded taxa are provided in *Results* section. Three new species, belonging to the three different genera—*Apoplophora* Aoki, 1980 (Mesoplophoridae), *Oribotritia* Jacot, 1924 (Oribotritiidae) and *Plonaphacarus* Niedbala, 1986 (Steganacaridae)—are described below. The systematics, generic characters, identification keys to species of these genera was presented earlier (Niedbala 2000).

Some remarks on the descriptions of *Sumatrotritia inusitata* Mahunka, 1989, *Euphthiracarus meghalayensis* Sanyal, 1988, *Phthiracarus obscurus* Niedbala, 1986 and *Hoplophthiracarus concinuus* (Niedbala, 1982) are presented.

Taxonomic status of *Hoplophthiracarus tropicus* Mondal & Kundu, 1988 is discussed.

Material and methods

Soil litter was passed through a sifter. Ptyctimous mites were extracted into 75% ethanol using Berlese's funnels. Specimens submerged in lactic acid and mounted on temporary cavity slides for the duration of the study. Body measurements are presented in micrometers. Length of the body setae was measured in lateral aspect.

All types of new species are preserved in the collection of the Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland.

List of collecting sites:

In-1: India, 28°19'32"N 95°57'31"E, Arunachal Pradesh, Hunli, 1300 m a.s.l., soil litter in forest, collected by L. Dembický and O. Šauša during 26.05–01.06.2012.

In-2: India, 27°00'48"N 92°39'08"E, Assam, Bhalukpong, 150 m a.s.l., soil litter in forest, collected by L. Dembický and O. Šauša during 01–08.05.2012.